

ing compared to the shame of what happened to Japanese Americans during the Second World War.

There is nothing wrong with this country that we can't fix if we have the right attitude and enough courage and vision and willingness to think in new terms about a new future rooted in old values. That is what Asian-Pacific Americans are most famous for among your fellow citizens. And so I ask you to help lead us into that future.

Thank you and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:37 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency. In his remarks, he referred to Adm. Ming Chang, USN, Ret., acting chairman, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Institute; Gloria T. Caoile, dinner chair; actors Ming-Na Wen and George Takei; and author Amy Tan.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Law Enforcement Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

May 19, 1995

The President. I asked the heads of all of these major law enforcement organizations to come and meet with me in the White House today for two reasons. First, some of our work to enhance the safety of America's police officers and America's citizens and to better protect the police officers, to help them protect us, a lot of that work is under attack.

Some in Congress want to undermine our efforts to put 100,000 police officers on the street. Some want to repeal the Brady bill, even though it's stopped over 40,000 fugitives and felons from purchasing weapons last year alone. And some want to repeal the ban on deadly assault weapons, even though it is helping to protect the lives of innocent police officers and children on our streets.

I want to enlist these leaders' continued support in fighting these misguided attempts to roll back the clock in the fight against crime. And I want to make it clear that if Congress gives in to the political pressure to do this and repeals any of these measures, I will veto them in a heartbeat. In any fight between our country's law enforcement and

the Washington gun lobby, I will side with law enforcement.

Secondly, I want to discuss the attempts by a vocal minority to run down our police officers for their own benefit. The people who tried to make police officers the enemy when we were having a lot of controversy in this country back in the 1960's were wrong, and the people who are trying to do it today are wrong.

I don't care if you want less Government or more Government. I don't care if you favor repeal or retention of the assault weapons ban. Whatever you believe, no one has a right to attack those who uphold the law. Police officers risk their lives to protect our lives. They're on our side. I hope anyone who thinks otherwise has learned a valuable lesson in the debate in this country in the last couple of weeks.

I hope the NRA knows by now that anyone who pretends that police officers are the enemy is only giving aid and comfort to criminals who are really the enemy. I am glad the NRA apologized for the cruel attack on law enforcement officers in their fundraising letter on Wednesday. However, I note today that yesterday they seemed to be bragging about how much money they made from the fundraising letter in which they attacked police officers as "jackbooted thugs."

Now, if the NRA's apology is sincere, what they ought to do is put their money where their mouth is. They ought to give up the ill-gotten gains from their bogus fundraising letter, for which they have already apologized and acknowledged as inappropriate. They ought to turn that money over to the organization that helps the families of police officers who died in the line of duty. They made the money by attacking the police. They admitted they did the wrong thing. They ought to give the money up. That would show true good faith and would set the basis for an honest and open dialog in this country about issues that ought not to divide us by party, by region, by ideology, or in any other way. They ought to give the money back.

Thank you.

National Rifle Association

Q. Do you think they will?

The President. I don't know.

Dewey Stokes. I think they rescinded their statement the other day in the paper at home. One of the NRA members said in our local newspaper that they didn't mean that apology.

Q. Have they said it to you? Have they said it formally at all, except in——

Mr. Stokes. They said it in the newspaper the other day. They did not accept—they did not think that apology reached out to law enforcement.

Q. Well, are any of your people across the board resigning from the NRA?

Mr. Stokes. I've had some calls from—some of our members have resigned from the NRA, yes, in the last—since their letter came out about a week ago.

Budget Resolution

Q. Mr. President, do you have any words for the Senate as they're starting to debate the budget resolution today?

The President. Just what I've said all along. First of all, let me say again, I hope very much that we can—ultimately, we'll wind up agreeing on a rescission package to start cutting spending more right now. I want to cut spending by more than the House and Senate agreed in their committee to cut it, but I think it's cut in the wrong way. We shouldn't put pork back in the budget and cut education. I have said what I think about this. I think we have to continue to work for a balanced budget. I think we can achieve a balanced budget. I do not believe that the right way to do it is by making severe cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, the health care of our seniors and disabled population, and using that money to pay for tax cuts for upper income people. I do not believe that it's right to make it more expensive to go on to college. I don't think we ought to raise taxes on our lowest income working families with children. Those are the three things that I think are wrong.

I think there is a lot to commend the efforts that have been made by the Republicans in Congress. I think that, you know, they have shown that it is arithmetically possible to reach a balanced budget. And I believe that if we continue to work on a lot of the things that we're doing constructively in health care and other areas, we can

achieve this. But I don't believe that we can do it with those three big, big problems out there. And I hope that we can work those out in the weeks and months ahead.

Q. How do you think you're going to——

Q. Senator Gramm just charged that you are committed to protecting the Government that you know and love and programs that have failed for the last 40 years.

The President. [*Inaudible*]**—**Senator Gramm—let me just say this: I don't want to get in a fight with Senator Gramm, but look at the record. He was here during the Reagan years and the Bush years when they quadrupled the Government deficit. And I would just point out that the administrations that he supported always sent budgets to Congress that were in excess of the ones Congress approved. I would point out that if it weren't for the interest run up before I ever showed up here, if it weren't for the interest run up between 1981 and the end of 1992, we would have a budget that is in balance today. And I have already cut or eliminated some 300 programs, and we propose, in this new budget, to cut or eliminate some 400 more.

We have done more to challenge and change the status quo in 2 years than the previous administrations did in the last 12, perhaps the last 20. Furthermore, I don't see Senator Gramm out there campaigning for lobby reform, campaign finance reform. I don't even know what's happened to the line-item veto. If they're worried—if they want me to show them how to end the status quo, send me the line-item veto. Where is it?

If I had the line-item veto, we wouldn't be having this argument about the rescission bill. I could just get rid of it. All the things that—Senator Gramm is defending this rescission bill—\$1 million for a city street, nine highway projects in one congressional district, \$100 million for a courthouse—when we're cutting education? It seems to me that he's on the side of the status quo. I want to cut spending, but I want to change the way the Government works here. And I would urge him to stop protecting the Republican pork, just as I'm willing to scrap the Democratic pork, and let's put partisan politics behind us and get on with moving the country forward.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. Dewey Stokes is national president of the Fraternal Order of Police. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message on the Observance of Armed Forces Day, 1995

May 19, 1995

Every year on this day our citizens join in honoring you, the men and women who wear our nation's uniform. You risk your very lives to defend the liberties we hold dear. Americans everywhere recognize your dedication and professionalism, and all of us feel profound respect, pride, and appreciation for our Armed Forces.

As we commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Allied victory in World War II, everyone on Earth should pause to express heartfelt gratitude to those who fought and sacrificed in that awful conflict. We do no greater honor to the memory of those lost in World War II than to continue their fight against tyranny and oppression everywhere.

Each of you has stood to carry on that fight in this past year. You have been called to serve in lands far from home. You have brought freedom and security to our friends and allies and humanitarian aid to those in need. In Haiti, you helped restore democracy; in the Persian Gulf, you faced down the forces of aggression; and in central Africa, you delivered lifesaving food, water, and medicine. Throughout the year, you maintained the security of our country at home and at posts around the world.

Whether you serve in the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, your standards of excellence and your selfless service are models for all Americans. I am proud to salute you for your many extraordinary accomplishments.

Bill Clinton

NOTE: Armed Forces Day was observed on May 20.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 12¹

The President announced his intention to appoint Thomas L. Blair to the Advisory Board of the National Air and Space Museum.

The President selected the following individuals to serve as delegates to the White House Conference on Small Business: Peggy Hernandez Anastos; George A. Beach; Kenneth C. Blair, Jr.; Roderick Blount; William D. Budinger; C. Michael Davenport; Tony Davidow; Ned Densmore; Kenneth Eakes; Sandra Fowler; Betty Franklin-Hammonds; Zdenka Gast; John Paul Giere; Marina Grant; R. Alan Hall; Betty Hall; Ada S. Hollingsworth; Nat Hyman; Morris Kaplan; Michael W. Kempner; Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney; William C. Kimball; Sandra K. Lee; Carmen Orta; Indira B. Patel; Wayne Patrick; Derron Pierson; Alice Rickel; Barbara Serna; Donald J. Sterhan; Soundra Johnson Temple; Mary Touris; Carolyn Warner; Robert A. Weygand; Alan L. White; Phyllis Williams; Edward Zetick; and George Zoffinger.

The President declared a major disaster in the State of Mississippi and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding beginning May 8.

May 13

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton went to Camp David, MD, for the weekend.

May 14

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton returned to the White House from Camp David.

May 15

In the morning, the President met with Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara of Syria.

¹ These items were not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.